

# NOAA Aircraft Operations Center



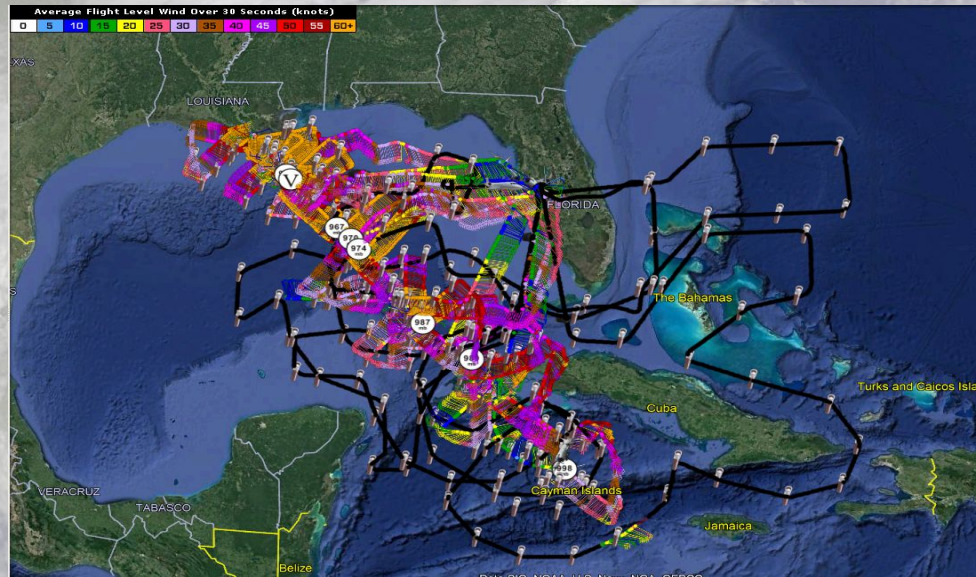
**CAPT Chris Kerns, NOAA**  
**Commanding Officer**  
**NOAA Aircraft Operations Center**



**Office of Marine and Aviation Operations**

# AOC Hurricane Season Operations

## P-3 / G-IV Hurricane IDA Missions



- AOC's mission during the hurricane season is to provide NHC reconnaissance support (WP-3D's), EMC TDR support (WP-3D's), NHC surveillance support (G-IV) and HRD research support (both platforms)
- AOC also supports NOS Emergency Response and Damage Assessment missions (King Air/Twin Otter)
- 467 hours (NWS/OAR/NESDIS) flown during 2021 season
- Expendables released during 2021 season: 1310 Dropwindsondes, 145 Bathythermographs and 8 Air Launched Autonomous Micro Observers (ALAMO's)
- NOAA G-IV flew 74% FY21 allocated hours
- NOAA P-3's flew 97% FY21 allocated hours

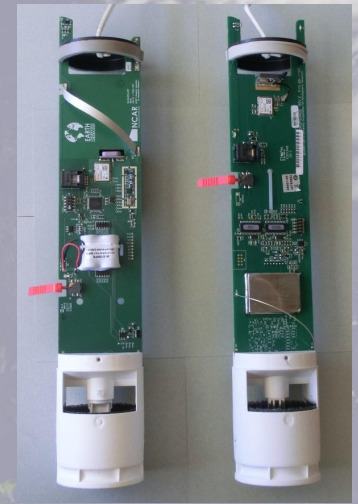




# AOC Hurricane Season Operations



- Per NHOP, 5.5.2.5, one WP-3D operationally configured and available to respond within 24 hours from 1 June – 30 November
- 2<sup>nd</sup> WP-3D available from 1 August – 31 October
- A flight frequency of every 12 hours can be accomplished with one aircraft if necessary

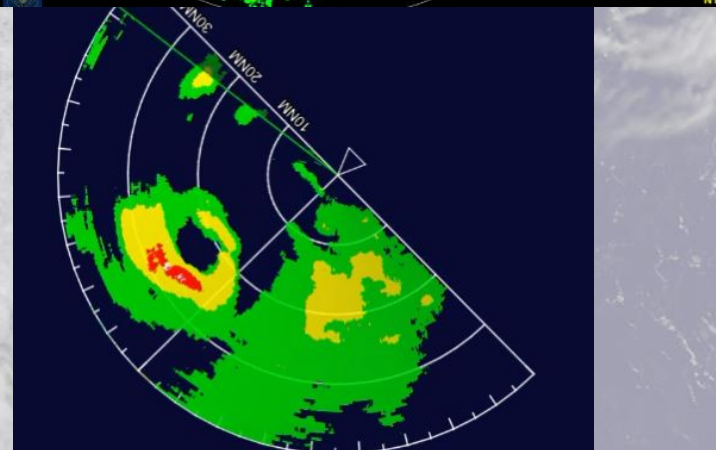
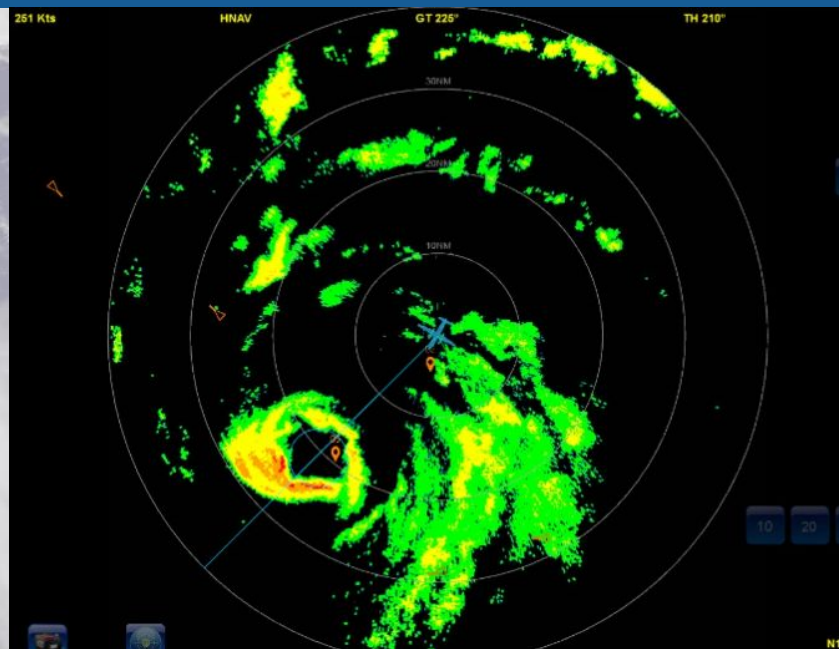


# AOC Hurricane Season Operations

## Standard coordination

(through Chief, Programs and Projects Section)

- Preemptive tasking received ~48 hrs from time of first mission
- Formal tasking given ~36 hrs - 24 hrs out with final go/no go 24 hrs from launch
- WP-3D order of precedence of tasking
  - Reconnaissance
  - EMC TDR
  - Research (HRD or NESDIS)





# AOC Hurricane Season Operations

## Standard coordination

- G-IVSP order of precedence of tasking
  - Surveillance
  - HRD research
- Operational WP-3D and G-IVSP requirements are outlined in NHOP, 5.4



Hurricane Larry,  
6 Sep 2021



# AOC Hurricane Season Operations

## Limitations

- **Severe Weather Heavy Aircraft**
  - Winds 36 – 49 kts – Aircraft must be tied down or evacuated
  - Winds 50 – 70 kts – Aircraft must be hangared or evacuated
  - Winds >70kts - Evacuation
- **COVID**
  - Forward deployment locations limited
  - Crews tied to cohorts
- **N43 MMR (LF Radar) Inop**
- **Flight Director (FD) Training and Qualification**
  - Currently we have 3 fully qualified FD's and 4 partially qualified on one platform
  - 3 vacant FD positions - Actively working with HR to fill those positions
  - Using FD's as ASPEN operators limits WP-3D FD training opportunities
    - HRD assistance with ASPEN required during high ops tempo




N42, N43 & N49 in St. Croix (USVI) 29 Sep 2021






# AOC Data available at NCEI

<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/has/HAS.FileAppRouter?datasetname=642002&subqueryby=STATION&applname=&outdest=FILE>

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**NOAA Aircraft Operations Center (AOC) Flight Data**

Select Project/Storm Name(s)  
HURR2021-GRA (08/13/2021 - 08/19/2021)  
HURR2021-HEN (08/19/2021 - 08/21/2021)  
HURR2021-IDA (08/27/2021 - 08/29/2021)  
HURR2021-LAR (09/04/2021 - 09/23/2021)

Select Start Date (YYYY/MM/DD)  
2021 / 06 / 01

Select End Date: (YYYY/MM/DD)  
2021 / 11 / 30

Delivery Destination: FTP

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-- If your data request will contain more than 2,000 files, you must select "Yes" for the Submit Batch option above.  
-- There is a data volume limit of 250 Gigabytes per request.

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Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

A satellite image of a large, swirling hurricane over the Pacific Ocean, with a prominent eye and dense cloud bands. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

# Questions?



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